

ASSASSINATION OF COFFEY.

Brave Officer Shot Down From Ambush Near the Empire Mine.

WAS FOLLOWING UNION OUTLAWS WHEN KILLED.

Party of Unionists Had Fired on Guard Preceding Miners Going Peaceably to Work.

FIVE UNION MEN ARE UNDER ARREST

Indignation Intense and Prospect for a Vigorous Prosecution.

Hopkinsville, Ky., October 29.

The Empire Coal and Mining Company this afternoon offered a reward of \$500 for the apprehension and conviction of the assassin or assassins of Mr. Robert Coffey.

(Special to The Bee.)

Empire, Ky., Oct. 26.—Robert H. Coffey, of Hopkinsville, a deputy sheriff of Christian county, was shot and killed early this morning near the Empire Coal Company's mines at this place. The murder was another of the outrages growing incident to the long and bitter contest between the union men allied with the United Mine Workers and the non-union miners employed in the coal mines of this section. Coffey was evidently shot from ambush while he was attempting to arrest a man or men in a buggy on a county road, whom he seems to have been pursuing. His body was found some hours later. A soft-nosed bullet had pierced his thigh, tearing out a great mass of bone and flesh.

A camp of union men, idlers and malcontents, is located in Hopkins county, a few miles from the Empire mines. The non-union miners have been so often fired at and the property of the companies so often attacked that it has been necessary for the operators to employ guards to protect lives and property.

This morning about 6 o'clock John Fields, a guard at the Empire, was making a survey preparatory to the coming on of the day shift. He was fired on from the timber on a neighboring hillside. He dropped behind a railroad embankment and returned the fire from his Winchester. Fifty or sixty shots were directed at him, only three striking near him, though the range was only 150 to 200 yards. Hearing the shots, Coffey, and other deputies and guards about the mining settlement, seized their guns and rushed for the scene of action. Coffey, who was in charge of the armed forces, met a horseman, Dr. Geo. J. Gooch, who lent him his mount, and Coffey made for the woods at a gallop, the others following and scattering through the hills. Some time after Coffey disappeared five shots were heard in the direction he had taken but were not immediately regarded.

When the searchers returned to Empire, Coffey was missing. Parties were sent out to look for him and he was found dead in the road. His horse, unharmed, was grazing near by with the bridle reins thrown off his neck. Coffey's rifle and pistol were with him and had not been discharged.

The officer had apparently followed the tracks of a buggy from a point near where the early

shooting took place. He probably overtook it, covered its occupants and dismounted, when he was shot by someone hidden in the woods. There were indications that the buggy had stopped and turned, as if to allow someone to alight, near the place where the body was found. There were also evidences that a man had been in the woods. Footprints were found and at one point the man apparently had stumbled and fallen as though he had been running. Besides the tracks of the buggy and horse in the road there were also the tracks of a mule. The man on foot seemed to have run by a short cut in the road, perhaps to rejoin the occupants of the buggy. The tracks of the buggy were followed some distance but the vehicle was not overtaken. It had traveled toward Nortonville, near which place the union camp is located. A hat was found not far from Coffey's body.

Searching parties scoured the woods and seven persons were arrested on suspicion. Charles Barnes, son of the sheriff of Christian county, and himself a deputy, arrested Will Goldsworthy who was armed with a big 44-calibre revolver and a belt filled with cartridges. After Goldsworthy was disarmed he grabbed a pistol from one of the arresting party and tried to shoot Barnes but someone grabbed his arm in time. Barnes leveled his rifle at Goldsworthy but a bystander also seized him and prevented his shooting. Of the men arrested Goldsworthy was the only one with arms. The other prisoners are Ed Goldsworthy, Jim Will Anderson, George Phillips, — Deckard, and two men whose names could not be learned. Those named are all union men and agitators. All of the prisoners were taken to Hopkinsville this afternoon.

After the inquest held by Coroner Allensworth the body of the murdered man was taken this afternoon to the family home in Hopkinsville. The deceased leaves a wife and several children. One of his sons is in the Philippine army and another, Frank Coffey, is telegraph operator at Madisonville. He was about 55 years old.

INTENSE EXCITEMENT.

People of Christian County Shocked and Outraged by the Dastardly Crime.

TROUBLE THERE FOLLOWED ESTABLISHMENT OF CAMP

Hopkinsville, Ky., Oct. 26.—The news of the trouble and the killing of Coffey has caused the wildest excitement in and around Empire and throughout that section of North Christian.

It was heard by Hopkinsville people with the greatest indignation, mingled with deep regret over the assassination of the brave and popular officer, and there is a universal feeling that the strong arm of the law should be used in the greatest possible effort to restore peace and stamp out the lawlessness that has resulted in the foul murder.

The murdered man was well and favorably known throughout this region. He was a detective of splendid ability, and there was

no officer more dreaded by the criminal classes.

A Courageous Man.

He was a man of intrepid courage. Time and again his bravery had been tested under the most trying circumstances, and always he was cool, alert and absolutely fearless. He was devoted to his work, which had won him wide-spread and well-deserved reputation. He was formerly on the police force of Hopkinsville, and later was special agent for the Louisville & Nashville Railroad Company. He served a term as mayor of Guthrie, Ky., and later operated a detective agency.

For about eight months he had been in the service of the Empire Coal and Mining Company as chief guard, and had discharged the duties of the place with perfect success.

Nearly a year ago, and again last spring there was considerable disorder about Empire due to efforts to organize the mines. These attempts failed, for the miners have no complaints to make against the company, and express themselves as pleased at all times with their relation to it.

Trouble Starts.

Everything had worked very smoothly till the last week in September, following the breaking up of union camps in Hopkins county. On September 30, the unarmed Empire men were fired on from ambush when they were on their way home from work. On the following night the houses of the miners were fired into. In the two attacks two of the company's men were wounded, but not seriously.

The grand jury investigated the assaults and returned indictments against Bud and Bert Knight, who had been recognized among the assailants. Neither has been captured.

Lives in Peril.

From that time till the present the miners and the guards who had been sent to protect the company's property have been in peril, for shooting from ambush and at all hours of the day and night has been kept up.

On Oct. 10 there was a fight in the rain and darkness between the guards and unknown men and over two hundred shots were fired. A day or two later several guards were fired on near Mannington.

It became more quiet during the following week and on the 18th the authorities reduced the force of guards, releasing ten men. There are now twenty men on duty. It is probable that the number of guards will be immediately increased.

Aided by Union.

Hopkinsville, Ky., Oct. 28.—The five strikers were taken this morning at 10 o'clock before Judge Cansler to have the time of their examining trial set. The United Mine Workers of America, the miners' union of which they are members, has hurried to their assistance. District President James D. Wood arrived in the city this morning on the 6 o'clock train. With him was Attorney Everett Jennings, of Madisonville. The firm of G. W. Southall & Son was employed to aid in the defense, and the services of Judge William H. Yost of Greenville have also been secured. County Attorney Anderson, for the commonwealth, and Hunter Wood & Son, representing the mining company, stated that they would not be ready to enter into the trial for ten days, as at least that much

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ENDORSED.

Subscriber Takes Time to Write Approval of The Bee's Stand.

FOR LAW AND GOOD ORDER

In these days of the outlaw and the demagogue, when no man's life and no man's business seems safe from the attacks of these two classes of men who curse the country, it is pleasant to the editor to get an occasional expression of endorsement from an appreciative reader. Friendly approval, indeed, generally goes far toward making up an editor's reward.

A Webster county subscriber writes:

Editor Bee:

Enclosed find money order for extension of my subscription to The Bee. In these days of anarchy, lawlessness and midnight assassins, it is gratifying to have at least one paper in southern Kentucky whose editor is a bold, fearless, outspoken advocate of law and order. May its shadow never grow less nor its sting less pungent.

Grapevine Items.

The farmers are taking advantage of the fine weather and are getting up with their fall work.

Elder W. H. Ligon filled his regular appointment here Saturday and Sunday. He has just closed a meeting at Bethlehem with nine additions to the church.

Several from this vicinity have been attending the protracted meeting in progress at Liberty.

Jacob Myers, an old citizen, was buried here late Friday evening. He was afflicted with dropsy.

Thomas F. Wilson is still very low at his home on Flat Creek, with but little hope of his recovery.

Mrs. Lynch of Nebo has moved on the farm with her son-in-law, Joe Parrish, who lives in the Wilson's schoolhouse vicinity.

Miss Mayme Ford returned Saturday from Greenville. She was accompanied home by Mesdames Edw. Puryear and Rufus Martin.

Mrs. Ann Cox of Madisonville is spending the week with her sister, Mrs. Lucindy Todd.

John Barrett Moore, who has been living near the church, has moved to the Buckner farm, in order to get closer to his work.

Mrs. Sarah Slaton, mother of John Slaton, has been spending a week with him.

Will Walker and family spent several days in this vicinity last week.

PRES. MINTERS KILLED.

Veteran Colored Miner Loses Life by Standing Shot in Monarch Mines.

Press Minters, aged about 50 years, a thrifty and industrious veteran colored miner, was killed Friday in the Monarch mine by a fall of coal, caused by a faulty shot he had made. It was the fatal "standing shot" again, as it is known in mining parlance. In other words, Minters had mined his room and fired his shot, which loosened the coal, but left it standing. Going back to finish, he worked underneath the coal, which fell and caught him.

Press Minters had been a coal miner in this county for many years, and had accumulated some property. He was an honest, sober man, and numbered many friends among both white and colored people. His home was in Earlinton, where he owned several houses and lots.

102 Years Old.

Evansville, Ind., Oct. 30.—Jno. Hanselman, living in Kentucky, opposite Mt. Vernon, Ind., celebrated his 102d birthday Sunday, and a large number of his relatives and friends gathered there in honor of the event. Hanselman is probably the oldest man in Kentucky.

Robbers at Morganfield.

Evansville, Ind., Oct. 28.—Robbers secured quite a sum of money from a safe in the Illinois Central depot at Morganfield, Ky., last night, and were tracked by bloodhounds to the Henderson bridge, where it is believed they escaped into Indiana. Local detectives are searching for them.

A NEW TRIAL ORDERED.

Appellate Court Finds Numerous Errors in Record of Lower Court.

CASE OF THE HOPKINS COUNTY DEPUTIES REVERSED

Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Instructions of the Court Do Not Stand the Test.

LINDLE HAD RIGHT TO ARREST WITHOUT WARRANTS

Officers Had Right, in Order to Make Arrests to Shoot, if Any Resisted

Frankfort, Ky., Oct.—29.

The judgment of the Hopkins Circuit Court in the case of the Commonwealth against J. B. Lindle, Wade McIntosh and Ed Johnson, in which they were convicted of manslaughter and conspiracy in the killing of Henry Taylor, a union miner, and sentenced to confinement for two years in the State penitentiary, was reversed by the Court of Appeals today, and the case sent back to the lower court for a new trial. The whole court considered the case. Judge Burnam delivered the opinion and Judge Guffy dissented.

The case has been a hard fought one and excited much feeling in the Western Kentucky mining section at the time of the trial in the lower court. Lindle was a deputy sheriff of Hopkins county, on duty at one of the mines at the time of the killing of Taylor, and had summoned Johnson and McIntosh as members of a posse to go with him to Bostown, where the union miners were assembled, to demand that they, in pursuance of a proclamation of the sheriff, disband. Taylor was at the head of the column of miners. He drew a pistol from his pocket and a number of shots were fired. Taylor and another miner, Bill Cook, were killed.

Appealed Because of Errors.

On appeal of the case to the court here by the defendants, error in the admission of evidence and the instructions of the court were alleged. The court says in the opinion of today that the defendants should have been granted a continuance under the

peculiar facts of the case because the Commonwealth subpoenaed, with a view of introducing, witnesses whose names were not at the foot of the indictment, and that the court erred in not permitting the defense to prove declarations by members of the United Mine Workers' Association as to the plans and purposes of the organization to close up the various mines in Hopkins county. The court says that the seventh, eighth and ninth instructions of the court were calculated to divert the minds of the jurors from the facts upon which the guilt or innocence really turned; that the sixth instruction was erroneous and prejudicial; that questions as to the relative rights of the United Mine Workers to assemble and march in a peaceable manner, and of the right of the operators to protect their property from violence and invasion, should not have been submitted to the jury, and that the tenth instruction was an entirely erroneous and misleading statement of the law. In commenting on the tenth instruction Judge Burnam said:

Judge Burnham's Opinion.

All that the law required of Lindle was that he should have in good faith believed and had reasonable grounds to believe that Taylor and the others with him had banded themselves together and gone forth armed for the purpose of alarming, intimidating or injuring any person or persons. If this was true he and the other defendants summoned by him had the lawful right to disperse and arrest such persons without warrant, and to use such force as was reasonably necessary to effect this purpose, and if Taylor and those with him resisted arrest it was lawful, if necessary to make such arrest, to shoot the persons so resisting.

When the case came before the court here, on appeal, Attorney General Breckinridge refused, after reading the record, to ask an affirmance of the judgment of the lower court. The case was argued before the court for the defendants by Ollie James, of Marion, Crittenden county.

The Working People's Slanderers.

"I killed the President," said Czolgosz, liar, loafer, murderer, anarchist, "because he was the enemy of the working people."

It was a practical certainty that he would say something like this, if he said anything.

It is not often that the working people escape when some scoundrel poses as a reformer.

Czolgosz, who according to his own father, would not work, of course defended his crime by declaring that it was done in the interest of the working people.

There is not a charlatan or rascal in politics who does not attempt to advance his selfish and swindling schemes by claiming to be the champion of the working people.

Socialism, anarchism and most of the other isms urged by those who would tear down society in preference to working for a living, are urged by those who seek to give such nostrums some respectability by insisting that they are for the benefit of the working people.

And yet this whole brood have a supreme contempt for working people who honestly work, especially when they succeed in bettering their own condition by their work.

That real working people have not suffered more than they have from the mouthings of mountebanks and adventurers is due to the fact that the world has a pretty accurate estimate of these slanderers of honest labor, and knows pretty well the motives of what they say.—Courier-Journal.